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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/626,746

Applicant(s)

BEU ET AL.

Examiner

THANH T. VU

Art Unit

2175

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-18 and 20-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-18, and 20-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/31/2007 has been entered.

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 12/31/2007.

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. In the Amendment, claims 1, 14, and 27 were amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 20-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Messinger et al. ("Messinger", U.S. Pat. No. 7,000,187), Rockey et al.. ("Rockey", Pub. No. US 2004/0268259), and Nielsen et al. ("Nielsen", U.S. Pat. No. 6,437,758).

Per claim 1, Messinger teaches system for acquiring information and functions from a database, comprising:

at least one context object containing a data record that has information and functions from the database and a context-specific menu that has a control component enabling access by a user to the context object (see figs. 2 and 13A, *context object 42a-d*; *context-specific menu 400*; see col. 8, lines 34-50);

a context manager and a display device displaying a context display for visualizing the selected context objects (figs. 9 and 13; *current task 42b and steps are displayed to the user*).

Although Messenger teaches a particular tasks displayed in the list of task indication may be presented to the use a function of a mode setting (col. 2, lines 41-45; col. 12, lines 30-41), Messenger does not specifically teach automatically determining a current context of the user by at least one of a position in space, a work object and a work task of the user, automatically generating selected context objects from the context of the user in an automatic context registration by dynamically selecting the context object as a function of the current context of the user and automatically offering the selected context objects to the user without requiring the user to make individual preselections, and a tracking system detecting and recognizing real objects in a space, the tracking system comprising at least one image detection unit detecting the real objects and a computer unit processing information output by the image detection unit wherein the processed information from the tracking system is provided to the automatic context registration for automatically generation of the context of the user. However, Rockey et al. teaches automatically determining a current context of the user by at least one of a position in space, a work object and a work task of the user, automatically generating selected context objects from the context of the user in an automatic context registration by dynamically selecting the context object as a function of the current context of the user and automatically offering the

selected context objects to the user without requiring the user to make individual preselections ([0017] *shows determining the user's context within a task and dynamically presenting a UI context sensitive commands.*) Neilson teaches a tracking system detecting and recognizing real objects in a space, the tracking system comprising at least one image detection unit detecting the real objects and a computer unit processing information output by the image detection unit wherein the processed information from the tracking system is provided to the automatic context registration for automatically generation of the context of the user (col. 13, line 52-col. 14, line 15; *shows a gaze tracking device to detect the context of the user and provide information based on context of the user.*) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the teaching of Rockey and Neilsen in the invention of Messenger in order to provide systems of presenting commands in a task sensitive manner, which assist in using physical screen space in a more efficient manner ([0016]), and in order to automatically determined what aspect of the computer's operation has the user's interest and to optimize that aspect (col. 1, lines 5-10).

Per claim 2, the modified Messenger teaches the system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the context objects are assigned granularity levels, wherein the context manager comprises a granularity regulator selecting the context objects from a selection range as a function of a selected granularity level, and wherein the size of the selection range is dependent on the granularity level selected (Messenger, fig. 13c; see col. 12, lines 15-27, *which shows different levels menu (granularity levels) of context objects*).

Per claim 3, the modified Messenger teaches the system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the assignment of the granularity levels of the context objects is at least one of an automatic

assignment and a user-guided assignment of the granularity level (Messinger, fig. 13c; col. 12, lines 15-27; *level menu 430*).

Per claim 4, the modified Messinger teaches the system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the control component of the context-specific menu enables access by the user to the information and the functions and enables removal by the user of the selected context objects from the context display (Messinger, col. 12, lines 28-42, *which shows task list are based on user's privilege on the network*).

Per claim 5, the modified Messinger teaches the system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a manual context registration providing, a user-guided generation of the selected context objects from the context of the user (Messinger, col. 12, lines 15-20 and lines 35-41; *level menu and user's privilege*).

Per claim 7, the modified Messinger teaches the system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a workflow engine monitoring and controlling a work task of the user, wherein information supplied by the workflow engine is provided to the automatic context registration for automatic generation of the context of the user (Nielsen, fig. 4; col. 10, lines 231-52)

Per claim 8, the modified Messinger teaches the system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the context of the user is determined additionally as a function of communication partners of the user (Messinger, col. 12, lines 35-41).

Per claim 9, the modified Messinger teaches the system as recited in Claim 5, further comprising references prompting the context manager to select the context objects from the context of the user by the manual context registration, wherein the references comprise at least

one of entries in the context-specific menu or marks on real objects in a space (Messinger, col. 12, lines 35-41).

Per claim 10, the modified Messenger teaches the system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the display device is a mobile display (Messinger, fig. 1; *mobile display 10a-b*).

Per claim 11, the modified Messenger teaches the system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the control component selects the context objects to be visualized on the display device by the user (Messinger, figs. 9 and 13; *current task 42b and steps are displayed to the user*).

Per claim 12, the modified Messenger teaches the system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a further control component generating messages regarding external information, wherein the context of the user is determined additionally as a function of the messages (Messinger, col. 8, lines 34-39).

Per claim 13, the modified Messenger teaches the system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the database is configured for receiving notes of the user that are linked to the context of the user, the notes being classified as one of private, public, and relevant to data maintenance (Messinger, col. 12, lines 9-15; level menu and user's privilege).

Claims 14-18 and 20-26 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 1-5 and 7-13 respectively.

Claim 27 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 1.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the amendment have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THANH T. VU whose telephone number is (571)272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William L. Bashore can be reached on (571) 272-4088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thanh T. Vu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2175